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VIA ECFS

February 1, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Section 63.71 Application of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for  
Authority to Discontinue Certain Services

JSI respectfully files the enclosed Application of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for Authority to Discontinue Certain Services. This filing is made in compliance with Section 63.71 of the Commission's rules (47 C.F.R. § 63.71).

Sincerely,

Valerie Wimer  
Vice President

on behalf of

Delbert Wilson  
CEO  
Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Delbert Wilson, CEO  
Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Echelon Building II, Suite 200  
9430 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759  
phone: 512-338-0473, fax: 512-346-0822

Eagandale Corporate Center, Suite 310  
1380 Corporate Center Curve, Eagan, MN 55121  
phone: 651-452-2660, fax: 651-452-1909

6849 Peachtree Dunwoody Road  
Bldg. B-3, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30328  
phone: 770-569-2105, fax: 770-410-1608

547 South Oakview Lane  
Bountiful, UT 84010  
phone: 801-294-4576, fax: 801-294-512

Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Section 63.71 Application of	)	Comp. Pol. File No. _____
Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	)	
For Authority to Discontinue	)	
Certain Services	)	

**SECTION 63.71 APPLICATION**

Pursuant to Sections 63.71 of the Commission's Rules<sup>1</sup> and Section 214(a) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended,<sup>2</sup> Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("HCTC" or the "Cooperative") hereby files this application to discontinue the provision of select operator services to customers that the Cooperative serves in the state of Texas ("Application").<sup>3</sup> In support of this Application, HCTC submits the following:

**I. Information Required by Section 63.71(a)(1) - (4)**

**A. Name and Address of Carrier**

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
220 Carolyn  
P. O. Box 768  
Ingram, TX 78025

For purposes of this Application, the Commission may contact:

Delbert Wilson, CEO  
Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
220 Carolyn  
P. O. Box 768  
Ingram, TX 78025  
(830) 367-5333  
delbertw@hctc.net

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<sup>1</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 63.71.

<sup>2</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a).

<sup>3</sup> As required by Section 63.71(a) of the Commission's Rules, HCTC has notified and submitted a copy of this Application concurrent with this filing to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Governor of Texas, and the Secretary of the Department of Defense.

**B. Date of Planned Service Discontinuance**

HCTC will discontinue operator-assisted line status verification and busy interrupt services to its customers in the state of Texas on or after May 2, 2016, upon completion of all necessary federal and state regulatory approvals.

**C. Points of Geographic Areas of Service Affected**

Affected HCTC local exchange customers are in the Cooperative's service area which provides telecommunications services in 15 exchanges located in 14 counties spread over 3,500 square miles in Central Texas.

**D. Brief Description of the Types of Service Affected**

In the areas referenced above, HCTC provides the following services which will be discontinued (collectively, "Affected Services"):

- Line Status Verification – An operator service allowing the operator to confirm when a line is idle or in use.
- Busy Interrupt – An operator service allowing the operator to break into a conversation when a line is in use.

This discontinuance is limited to the Affected Services. Customers will continue to have access to all other current services without interruption.

**II. Brief Description of the Dates and Methods of Notice to All Affected Customers**

Notices were sent to all HCTC local exchange customers as a bill insert by method of U.S. Mail on February 1, 2016. Please reference Exhibit A which is a sample copy of the Notice sent to the affected customers. HCTC deemed a bill insert the most economic method of reaching its rural customers and printed the insert on distinctly colored paper to distinguish it from the billing statement and bring sufficient attention to the Notice.

**III. Status of Carrier**

HCTC is an incumbent local exchange carrier and considered a dominant carrier with respect to the services that it proposes to discontinue in the state of Texas.

**IV. Circumstances of Discontinuance**

The Cooperative's discontinuance of the Affected Services was a business decision based on a lack of customer demand for the services. In the preceding 12 months, the Cooperative has had only five instances of a customer utilizing Line Status Verification and only one instance of Busy Interrupt. Therefore, the discontinuance of these services will not adversely affect the Cooperative's customers.

V. **Certification**

On behalf of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc., I, the undersigned CEO, Delbert Wilson, hereby certify that the statements contained herein are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and made in good faith.

VI. **Conclusion**

For the reasons stated herein, the Cooperative respectfully requests grant of this Application.

Respectfully Submitted,



Delbert Wilson, CEO  
Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
220 Carolyn  
P. O. Box 768  
Ingram, TX 78025  
(830) 367-5333  
[dwilson@hctc.coop](mailto:dwilson@hctc.coop)

1-26-16  
Date

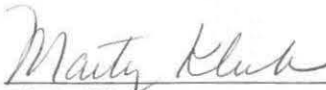
# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Section 63.71 Application was served this 1st day of February, 2016, by mailing true and correct copies thereof, postage prepaid, to the following persons at the addresses listed below.

Public Utility Commission of Texas  
Central Records  
1701 N Congress  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

Office of Governor Greg Abbott  
State of Texas  
State Insurance Building/1100 San Jacinto  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Secretary of Defense  
Attn: Special Assistant for Telecommunications,  
Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

  
Marty Klun

# EXHIBIT A

## CUSTOMER NOTICE

February 1, 2016

RE: FCC-Required Notice of Discontinuance of Certain Operator Services

Dear Valued Customer:

This letter is to inform you that on or after May 2, 2016, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc., ("HCTC") will no longer be providing certain operator services within the state of Texas. Customers who attempt to utilize the discontinued services will be informed by the operator that the service is not available. Specifically, the following operator services will be discontinued.

- Line Status Verification – An operator service allowing the operator to confirm when a line is idle or in use.
- Busy Interrupt – An operator service allowing the operator to break into a conversation when a line is in use.

This discontinuance is limited to the above operator services and will not affect your HCTC service in any other way. Customers will continue to access general operator services, including operator assisted dialing, handling sent-paid calls, handling emergency calls and providing rate quotes where available.

The FCC will normally authorize this proposed discontinuance of service unless it is shown that customers would be unable to receive service or a reasonable substitute from another carrier or that the public convenience and necessity is otherwise adversely affected. If you wish to object, you should file your comments as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after the Commission releases public notice of the proposed discontinuance. You may file your comments electronically through the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System using the docket number established in the Commission's public notice for this proceeding, or you may address them to the Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Competition Policy Division, Washington, DC 20554, and include in your comments a reference to the §63.71 Application of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Comments should include specific information about the impact of this proposed discontinuance upon you or your Cooperative, including any inability to acquire reasonable substitute service.

If you have any questions about this notice or HCTC's discontinuance of the aforementioned operator services, please contact us at 220 Carolyn, Ingram, TX 78025 or 830-367-5333.

We thank you for your business and look forward to continuing to serve your communications needs.

Sincerely,

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.